

one of which may be the cause. There is no room in the mind of an uncultured man for the idea of chance or accident: the acknowledgement of ignorance is a sceptical refinement that is out of accord with the first promptings of our instinct to infer. Accordingly where causes are not discoverable by his observation he is ready to accept as such any ideas that are suggested to him with a show of authority although they may be derived from visioned as opposed to observed experiences—are the fruit not of observation but of imagination. So he may believe that rain is caused by the performance of a magic ceremony. Thus was opened a curious chapter in the history of mankind. Its last pages record the achievements of science and philosophy : but for the most part it is an account of extraordinary error. A conception of cause and effect has enabled man to put the earth into a balance and to determine the chemical constituents of the stars. For untold generations it has led him to believe in the grossest extravagances of magic and witchcraft.

Children display very instructively the beginnings of these delusions. They are insatiably curious respecting the causes of things. but they accept without question the answers that are given them. whether as to the constitution of the moon or of the origin of babies. So is the rapacity of a dragon accepted in India and China as the cause of an eclipse of the moon.

Unending would
be a list of the errors to which man has
been com-
mitted by an imperfect use of his
reasoning faculties. Fetishism, magic, witchcraft, and
astrology :
belief in a fateful connection between
man and
various animals, which are adopted as
totems,
worshipped as protectors, dissected as
a means of
discovering the future and eaten in the
hope of
appropriating their qualities : the
ascription of